

**Alabama  
Rural  
Health  
Association**

**For the  
Preservation and Enhancement of Health  
for Alabama's Rural Citizens**  
**Communication • Education • Advocacy**

May 30, 2011

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Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

I and the leadership of the Alabama Rural Health Association are in favor of the quickest solution to deploying broadband services to reach every American. And who isn't? Without approval of the proposed AT&T-Mobile merger, we would have to wait years for this type of coverage and we don't have that kind of time.

As the Executive Director of the Alabama Rural Health Association, I am very aware of the connection between technology and healthcare. Telemedicine is becoming a typical part of rural health care, but is being restricted by broadband service limitations. The term covers a number of health related practices – to name just a few:

- Electronic health records
- Video conferencing between remote or limited mobility patients and doctors
- Video EMT-to-doctor communications
- Improved GPS
- Easier sharing of test results between generalists and specialists

It is paramount that we approve this merger and expand reliable and high-speed coverage to rural America. These people need QUALITY healthcare and would greatly benefit from having unprecedented ACCESS to advanced health information and contact with doctors.

I want to stress that current, spotty rural coverage is not sufficient. My wife is a work-at-home medical transcriptionist who cannot work when the internet is down – which is often. I also have a neighbor whose businesses suffers daily because of poor web access. This has negative effects on our local economy and health care system.

Something has to be done – the quicker the better – so businesses and health care providers can improve their services. Approve this merger and make things happen.

Sincerely,



Dale E. Quinney, Executive Director  
Alabama Rural Health Association